

Oakland Army Base, Exchange Cafeteria  
(Building No. 60)  
Between Bataan Avenue and Attu Street,  
facing the Post Headquarters Building.  
Oakland  
Alameda County  
California

**HAER No. CA-125-D**

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**PHOTOGRAPHS**

**WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA**

Historic American Engineering Record  
National Park Service  
Western Region  
Department of the Interior  
San Francisco, California 94107

# HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

## OAKLAND ARMY BASE, EXCHANGE CAFETERIA (Building No. 60)

HAER No. CA-125-D

**Location:** Between Bataan Avenue and Attu Street, facing the Post Headquarters Building.  
USGS Oakland West Quadrangle, Universal Transverse Mercator  
Coordinates: Northing 4184900, Easting 560150

**Date of Construction:** February 1942

**Architect:** Bechtel-McCone-Parsons Corporation, Architect-Engineers, San Francisco, California.

**Contractor:** The prime contractor for this building was The Army Port Contractors, a joint venture of MacDonald & Kahn, Inc.; The Utah Construction Company; and W.A. Bechtel and Bechtel-McCone-Parsons Corporation. At least initially, some 600 black troops of the 394th Quartermaster Battalion helped in construction of the installation. Additional subcontractors and suppliers consisted primarily of businesses in the San Francisco Bay area.

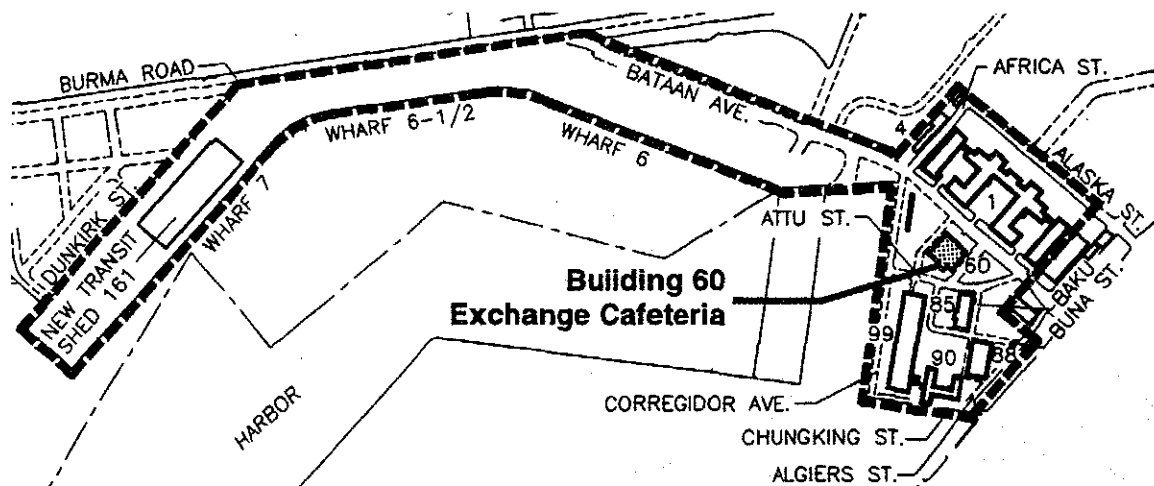
**Present Owner and Occupant:** Military Traffic Management Command, Western Area  
Oakland Army Base, CA 94626-5000

**Original Use:** Cafeteria

**Present Use:** Exchange Cafeteria

**Significance:** Building 60 was a structure used in support of Oakland Army Base's World War II mission.

**Original Plans:** Original plans were located in the OARB Engineering Office. According to the Real Property Record, the full set of As-Builts consisted of 31 drawings: #7052-115.1 through #7052-115.31,



inclusive. Two drawings from this series were unaccounted for: #7052-115.26 and #7052-115.28. Building 60 was originally identified as Building 24 in construction documents.

**Alterations:** Both the exterior and interior of the structure have undergone significant remodeling. All windows providing clerestory lighting have been covered over. The interior of the cafeteria has been renovated; changes encompass both the kitchen area (e.g. installation of new equipment) to updating the dining area.

## I. GENERAL STATEMENT

**Architectural Character.** The appearance of Building 60 suggests a structure reminiscent of the art deco style with eclectic elements. Some of these elements, like the clerestory windows on the second floor, have been removed. The curved projecting walls and lettering style of the word "Cafeteria" over the main entrance still remain (*Photograph CA-125-D-2*).

**Condition of Fabric.** This structure is in generally good condition.

## II. DESCRIPTION OF THE EXTERIOR

**Overall Dimensions.** The overall footprint of the building is roughly 126' x 109'. The original 12,641 square foot building was enlarged by subsequent additions to 13,256 square feet (*Photographs CA-125-D-1, D-3, D-4, D-5 and D-11*).

**Foundations.** The building is founded on creosoted/green timber composite piles driven into loose fill soil.

**Walls.** Exterior walls are painted plaster (stucco) over diagonally sheathed wood stud framing. Walls extend to form parapets at roof and skirts below floor level to conceal crawl space.

**Structural System.** The primary structure is wood post and girders with 56 foot long wood roof trusses over the dining area. Girders atop the wood piles support wood joists and diagonal board rough flooring. Similar joist and diagonal sheathing for the roof is supported on the trusses and wood beams.

**Porches, Stoops, Balconies.** 963 square feet of porches, platforms, and stoops have been added since the building was constructed (*Photograph CA-125-D-6*).

**Chimney.** A single chimney stack vents the multiple ranges in the kitchen.

**Openings.** Wood windows, which have for the most part been replaced with aluminum (*Photograph CA-125-G-3*), were used throughout the building. Originally, the main cafeteria building had clerestory lighting in addition to the windows at floor level. The upper level windows have been either removed or covered over. Exterior doors were solid core, veneered flush wood.

**Roof.** The built-up, gravel surfaced bituminous roof is sloped approximately .5 in 12 minimum to provide drainage.

### III. DESCRIPTION OF THE INTERIOR

**Floor Plans.** The plan is generally rectangular with two primary areas. The kitchen and storage occupy the rear third of the building. The dining area, occupying the majority of the building, is equipped to seat 476 persons.

**Stairways.** There are no interior stairways in the Exchange Cafeteria Building.

**Flooring.** Dining and office areas have a wood finish floor; kitchen and serving areas have a concrete topping over the diagonal subfloor.

**Wall and Ceiling Finishes.** The interior has been remodeled over time, with little remaining from the original construction.

**Openings.** All clerestory windows, with the exception of the large 24-pane decorative window over the entrance canopy, have been removed. Also, some of the first floor windows have been removed and the openings framed and stuccoed. All original wood sash windows on the first floor have been replaced with aluminum. Most of the doors also appear to be replacements.

**Decorative Features and Trims.** No distinctive decorative features were included in the plans for the interior or exterior of the cafeteria with the exception of the "CAFETERIA" sign over the main entrance. The original lettering remains in place.

**Hardware.** No notable hardware.

**Mechanical Equipment.** Original equipment included a steam heating unit; 1000 gallon per hour gas fired hot water heater; and numerous cooking, cleaning, and refrigeration appliances. Original plumbing and overhead lighting fixtures have all been replaced.

**Original Furnishings.** All original furnishings have been replaced.

### IV. SITE

**General Setting and Orientation.** At the time of construction, the cafeteria was well situated to accommodate its primary patrons — the administrative staff working in the Post Headquarters across the street. However, with the expansion of the Installation's personnel into administrative space on the east side of Maritime Street, the cafeteria is in a less convenient locale. Building 60 is located in the mixed land use area south of the Post Headquarters Building. To the south and west are port facilities operated by Port of Oakland. Maritime Street, a main surface transportation artery, borders this mixed land use area to the east.

**Historic Landscaping Design.** None noted. Landscaping around the front entrance porch area consists of ornamental trees, shrubs, and groundcovers that have been installed in recent times.

**Outbuildings.** None.

## V. SOURCES

**Architectural Drawings.** Real Property Records for Building 60 indicate that there were 31 pages of architectural drawings for this structure (#7052-115.1 through #7052-115.31). All but two, drawings 7052-115.26 and 7052-115.28, were located at the OARB Engineering Office. Four drawings have been reproduced and are included as a supplement to this survey.

**Early Views.** The contractor's "Completion Report" includes a photograph of the completed structure, reproduced below, dated January 31, 1942 (*Photograph CA-125-9*).